

# Many Stars of the Diamond Were Known by Different Names When They Were at School and College

## MANY PLAYERS USE ASSUMED NAMES

College Men Frequently Break Into Majors With Strange Monikers.

ED COLLINS WAS SULLIVAN

Ruelbach and Daniels. Used Many Aliases Before Landing in Fast Company.

By FREDERICK G. LEE.

Just what are their names? Often you will hear an inquisitive fan ask that question in regard to the athletes who appear on the big league trail. Fans occasionally hear of a ball player playing under an assumed name, and get the idea that the great majority of diamond artists, like boxers and chorus girls, used monikers other than their own names. The college players make no exception, and when they break into professional baseball, many of them start with aliases and start to finish their careers under their own names. The college players make no exception, and when they break into professional baseball, many of them start with aliases and start to finish their careers under their own names.

MacK inserted Sullivan in his shortstop position, but it seems that even in those days a few people would not have recognized the name. Anyhow, some college players connected with the Columbia faculty discovered that the youngster Sullivan was no other than the great shortstop of the Morningside team, Ed Collins. They had the goods on Eddie and when the faculty board took up his case he admitted he was Sullivan. He then was barred from playing with Columbia in his last year and the captaincy was transferred to another player. It always has been one of Eddie's regrets that he did not get another year in reporting to MacK, as every college player likes to captain his outfit. Thereafter Ed Collins came to be known as Sullivan and has been Collins ever since.

Koff was a student at Fordham and was tried out by Cleveland before his graduation. Therefore, Brady, when he graduated and was taken up by the Athletics he changed back from the Celtic Brady to the more Teutonic Koff. Ed Ruelbach had half a dozen names when he was a college player. Ruelbach was one of the crack pitchers of the Middle West, collegiate ball, when he was a member of the Notre Dame team. A big, strapping fellow, he had tremendous speed, and soon big league clubs began to take notice of him. But even in those days Ruelbach looked out for little Eddie, and fans who remember Ed in his fraternity days know that he always took care of the ball player.

Ed had many aliases. George Huff, who then was scouting for the Cubs, heard of Ruelbach, but by the time Huff went to Notre Dame Ruelbach already had left the college for the summer. To make the story complete, prior to going to Notre Dame Huff had journeyed to Cedar, Mo., where he had been tipped off that a young phenom named Lawson was pitching. Lawson was winning all his games and striking them out in droves. On arriving at Cedar Huff found the town in gloom, for after being paid off the great Lawson had left for parts unknown. Later, the summer before, duties called him into the Green Mountain League, where another sensation, Sheldon, was standing the batmen on their heads. After arriving at Centerville Huff discovered that Sheldon was Lawson, and that Lawson was Ruelbach. He took the trip back to Cedar to Chicago with him and on his way back to the Cubs immediately after joining the Chance enterprise.

Bert Daniels, formerly of the Yankees, also had several names. One of his for minor league in which he appeared, Lee Ruelbach, he was a product of Notre Dame. He had a new name for every league he entered. In the Connecticut League, Ayres in the New York State League, and finally bopped up with his own name, Daniels, in the American League. Yankees fans often have asked how Birdie Cree, who starred in the New York outfield at the same time that Daniels was in the Yankees, acquired his nickname Birdie. Cree's name was William Frank, but if anybody had called him Bill Cree no one would have recognized that famous Birdie was the old under discussion.

Picks His Own Name. Cree picked the Birdie out himself, or rather he called it Birdie. Cree was a crack all-around athlete at Penn State where he starred on the baseball and basketball teams, but like many other college fellows preferred making his money playing summer ball rather than working as a waiter or something akin to that. He therefore put in his summers playing summer ball as Frank Burdick. He also played one year with the Williamsport Tri-State team as Birdie. When he graduated from college he used his own name, Cree, but his assumed name was fastened on him a nickname and he has been Birdie Cree ever since.

It may be amusing for Yankee fans to know that Miller Huggins, the new pilot of the team, launched into professional baseball under the name of Proctor. At the time the midwest manager was taking a law course at Cleveland University, and he wasn't sure whether he would stick to his law books or baseball. He wanted to find out just how good he was at the latter.

MILLER HUGGINS, (PROCTOR)

## Preferred Aliases to Their Proper Names While on the Diamond



LEE MAGEE, (LEOPOLD HOERNSCHEMEYER)

Kyle, in the Eastern Association. The Phillies once had a pitcher Kane, who was born into the world a Cohn. In the spring of 1908 there was a little thin faced lad by the name of McGhee, who went South with the Philadelphia Nationals. He was a peppy pitcher, but didn't look exactly like a McGhee. He was too light for the big league and dropped out of sight after the Quakers returned home. But when Charles Herges appeared with the Phillies in 1910, Philadelphia players recalled the little McGhee of their training trip. McGhee and Herges were one.

Perhaps Charles took on the name of McGhee that spring for his own protection. The Phillies that spring were an Irish aggregation. Hughie Duffy was manager, Kid Gleason second baseman and captain, Red Donahue first baseman, and Mickey Donohue the shortstop. McGhee matched that combination better than Herges.

Occasionally there is a case of a player who finds his last name irksome and just goes under his first name. Such a player was Charles, who about ten years ago was the second baseman of the St. Louis Nationals. One day the Cardinals were playing on the Polo Grounds and a Pennsylvania Dutchman who had made a meal on his way north annoyed fans next to him by the volubility of his rooting in behalf of the St. Louis team. When Charles came up to bat he threw all restraint to the winds. "Come on, Aachenbach, you old boy. Come on, Aachen, hit it out for old Easton's sake." Charles was then discovered. He was really Charles Aachenbach of Easton, Pa.

Meet Leopold Hoernschmeyer. Lee Magee, who played second base for the Cardinals a few years after Aachenbach passed out of the majors, had a name that would have made a good running mate taken up by the moniker of Aachenbach. When Lee first attended school in Cincinnati and the schoolmaster asked him who he was he replied "Leopold Hoernschmeyer." But like Herges, Lee thought Magee was a better name to play ball under. However, when "Herry" was only McGhee for a spring, Hoernschmeyer is Magee for life, and all his progeny will go down to posterity as Magee.

Lee asked waivers on the Hoernschmeyer ever before we got into the war. He married a Cincinnati girl, but extraction and he couldn't ask her to be Mrs. Hoernschmeyer. So a day before the wedding he took his name into court and had it officially translated into Magee.

We tell no secrets when we print that Jack Quinn, the Yankee pitcher, in private life is John Picus, an Irish of Polish extraction and hails from the hard coal region of Pennsylvania. Now those boys do like Irish names! While it is true that many fans know that Jack Quinn is an Irish translation of John Picus, all of them do not know it, and therein lies a story.

It was during the engagement with the Yankees in the old Hilltop days. The Yanks were going pretty good, and so was Quinn. On a summer day during the summer of 1910, Quinn was married to a girl named Margaret. Quinn was a tough game with Detroit, then the champions of the league. It was a tight game, and though they were hitting Jack freely he was getting by.

One fan, with a decided Irish brogue, was giving Jack all the comfort and verbal encouragement he could muster in his larval. "That's pitching, me boy," "Strike 'em, Paddy!" "Show the lads the Irish that is in you!" and similar helpful phrases were freely passed out to Jack.

It was during the eighth inning Jack got into trouble up to his ears. Cobb and Crawford led off with hits, and Detroit needed only one run to tie and two to win. "Show 'em the Irish!" Quinn said. "Don't you Quinnie lead!" implored the Celtic fan.

Jack didn't quit; he retired the side without a run scoring. The Irishman smiled brightly. "Ah, ye can't put us Quinnies down!" And then he turned to the Irish in the stands and remarked: "I can't help rooting for the lad. Ye see I'm a Quinn myself!"

Had anybody told him that Mr. Quinn was a Picus from Poland there might have been a row. The Irishman smiled brightly. "Ah, ye can't put us Quinnies down!" And then he turned to the Irish in the stands and remarked: "I can't help rooting for the lad. Ye see I'm a Quinn myself!"

Then most everybody knows that the present Ping Bodie in private life is Francis Pizzola. They called him "Ping" on the coast because of his ability to pick home runs, and Bodie was a slugger's name, so Bodie appropriated it and has been Ping Bodie ever since. Connie Mack prefers the short terms to the more elongated Cornelius McGillicuddy, as the Athletic manager appears in the Philadelphia directory.

Reuben Le Marquis. Reuben Marquard of the Brooklyn is properly speaking Richard Le Marquis. He took the name in a peculiar way. When just a kid of 16 young Le Marquis used to fool around the Cleveland ball club, and was actually given a travelog by Ed Magee. A Cleveland reporter asked Rube what his name was and he told him Le Marquis.

Either the reporter couldn't read his name or he thought it was a mistake. Marquard, for the next day he had an article in the paper that the young pitcher working out with the Cleveland was Dick Marquard, a Cleveland schoolboy.

Marquard was good enough for Rube and he took the name with him to the American Association and then to the Yankees. The Rube was fastened on to him because he is left handed. During the era of Rube Waddell the name Rube invariably was attached to all left handed pitchers.

Jack Smith of the St. Louis Cardinals really is John Smith, while Alvin J. (Cory) Dolan, former Yankee third baseman and later infielder on the Phillies, Pirates and Cardinals, really is James Alberts. Just why Cory picked the name Alvin is pretty hard to get. Kelly also has made the most hits in the International League, while Ollie Laury of Baltimore has the most runs. Laury also leads the league in stolen bases with 27.

Barney of Birmingham leads the regular pitchers, with 5 victories and 1 defeat. George Kelly, first baseman of the Rochester team, again has passed his teammate, Billy Seer, in the race for batting honors of the International League. However, the contest between these lads still is nip and tuck. Kelly leads with .351; Straight of Buffalo is second with .373, and Seer is only two points behind him with .377.

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ED RUELBACK, (LAWSON AND SHELDON)

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